

(Amended on September 17, 2001)

CLAIMS

1. (amended) A fluorine-containing polymer comprising 70 to 95% by weight of tetrafluoroethylene, 5 to 25% by weight of hexafluoropropylene and 0 to 20% by weight of perfluoroalkyl vinyl ether, wherein a melt flow rate (MFR) (g/10 min., ASTM D2116) at 372°C is within a range from 0.1 to 100, and the total content (ppm) of an alkali metal and an alkali earth metal does not exceed the value obtained by calculating from the melt flow rate (MFR) at 372°C according to the formula (1):

$$5.2 \times e^{0.125(\text{MFR})} + 2 \quad (1)$$

and exceeds the value obtained by calculating according to the formula (2):

$$0.35 \times e^{0.125(\text{MFR})} \quad (2), \text{ and}$$

wherein $-\text{CF}_2\text{H}$ accounts for at least half of polymer chain terminals and substantially all polymer chain terminals comprise $-\text{CF}_2\text{H}$, or $-\text{CF}_2\text{H}$ and $-\text{CH}_3$.

2. (deleted)

3. An electric wire or cable coated with a fluorine-containing polymer wherein the total content (ppm) of an alkali metal and an alkali earth metal does not exceed the value obtained by calculating from a melt flow rate (MFR)

(g/10 min., ASTM D2116) at 372°C according to the formula (1):

$$5.2 \times e^{0.125(\text{MFR})} + 2 \quad (1)$$

and exceeds the value obtained by calculating according to the formula (2):

$$0.35 \times e^{0.125(\text{MFR})} \quad (2), \text{ and}$$

wherein $-\text{CF}_2\text{H}$ accounts for at least half of polymer chain terminals and substantially all polymer chain terminals comprise $-\text{CF}_2\text{H}$, or $-\text{CF}_2\text{H}$ and $-\text{CH}_3$.

4. (deleted)

5. The electric wire or cable according to claim 3, wherein the fluorine-containing polymer is a fluorine-containing polymer prepared by emulsion polymerization.

6. (amended) The electric wire or cable according to claim 3 or 5, wherein the fluorine-containing polymer is a copolymer comprising at least two monomers selected from the group consisting of tetrafluoroethylene, hexafluoropropylene and perfluoroalkyl vinyl ether.

7. (amended) The electric wire or cable according to anyone of claims 3, 5 and 6, wherein the contained alkali metal and alkali earth metal comprise at least one of potassium and sodium.

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